IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A spindle motor for use in a disc drive comprising a shaft supporting a thrust plate at one end thereof,

a sleeve surrounding the shaft and adjacent the thrust plate and cooperating with the shaft to define a journal bearing and the thrust plate to define a fluid thrust bearing,

a counterplate welded to said sleeve and located adjacent said thrust plate,

the welded counterplate being adapted to contain fluid within the thrust bearing and the journal bearing.

2. (Original) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 1 wherein the shaft is fixed and the sleeve and counterplate rotate relative to the shaft.

3. (Original) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 2 wherein the sleeve supports a hub for supporting a disc for rotation about the shaft.

4. (Original) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 1 wherein the shaft is free to rotate relative to the sleeve and counterplate.

5. (Original) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 4 wherein the sleeve and counterplate are fixed to a base which supports the motor.

6. (Original) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 5 wherein the shaft supports a hub for rotation over said base.

7. (Original) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 6 wherein the hub supports one or more discs for rotation.

8. (Previously Presented) A spindle motor for use in a disc drive comprising a shaft supporting a thrust plate at one end thereof,

a sleeve surrounding the shaft and adjacent the thrust plate and cooperating with the shaft to define a journal bearing and the thrust plate to define a fluid thrust bearing,

a counterplate supported between upraised axial arms of said sleeve and located adjacent said thrust plate,

means for containing fluid within the thrust bearing.

9. (Previously Presented) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 1 wherein said counterplate and said thrust plate define the fluid dynamic thrust bearing and the means for containing fluid comprise a counterplate welded to the upraised arms.

10, (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A spindle motor for use in a disc drive comprising

a shaft

a sleeve surrounding the shaft cooperating with the shaft to define a journal bearing

a counterplate welded to upraised axial arms of said sleeve and located adjacent said thrust plate to define a fluid dynamic thrust bearing,

the welded counterplate adapted to contain fluid within the thrust bearing.

12. (Previously Presented) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 11 wherein the shaft is fixed and the sleeve and counterplate rotate relative to the shaft.

13. (Previously Presented) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 12 wherein the sleeve supports a hub for supporting a disc for rotation about the shaft.

14. (Previously Presented) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 11 wherein the shaft is free to rotate relative to the sleeve and counterplate.

15. (Previously Presented) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 14 wherein the sleeve and counterplate are fixed to a base which supports the motor.

16. (Previously Presented) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 15 wherein the shaft supports a hub for rotation over said base.

17. (Previously Presented) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 16 wherein the hub supports one or more discs for rotation.